

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of WILTON for the Year ending 31st December, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,—

The population in 1891 was 7,774. This has been increased during the last ten years by an average annual addition of 198 births, from which an average annual deduction of 115 deaths must be made, leaving, however, an average annual natural increase of 83 per annum, or a total of 830 in the decade. The population estimated in this way ought to be 8,604, but, as this takes no account of those who are constantly coming and going, those figures will be considerably modified when the results of the coming census are made known.

The area of the district is 56,868 acres, which is equivalent to 6·6 acres per inhabitant. The number of inhabited houses is 1,627, the average number of inhabitants being 5·2 per house.

The public water supplies at Fovant, Quidhampton, and Bemerton have been satisfactory this year. A wish has again been expressed that the Upper Fovant supply should be carried down to Lower Fovant. This would be a desirable extension, but a costly and difficult one to carry out. There are many sites in Lower Fovant where good potable water could be obtained (by avoiding the Gault and keeping to the Upper Greensand formations), at a lower cost than bringing down the Upper Fovant main would entail.

During the year thirty samples of water from wells and tanks were examined. These were taken from the parishes of Baverstock, Bemerton, Berwick St. James, Bishopstone, Bower Chalke, Broad Chalke, Burcombe, Compton Chamberlain, Dinton, Ebbesborne Wake, Fovant, Groveley, South Newton, Steeple Langford, and Wylke. In six of these the water was not good, and the wells were ordered to be cleansed and repaired. There are 182 houses in the district supplied with water from service pipes, the others use wells and tanks. Eight samples of beer were found free from arsenic. During the year two drains were ordered to be re-laid, and eight to be cleansed and trapped, or ventilated. Three dilapidated privies were ordered to be repaired, and 17 to be cleansed.

Eleven houses were made fit for habitation, and six that were no longer habitable were closed. Fifty-four houses were cleansed and limewashed. Four cases of overcrowding occurred, and were abated.

The streams and water courses are in good order. They are mostly let to fishing clubs, and are well looked after. In no part of the district is river water allowed to be used as a domestic water supply.

The burial grounds are properly kept, and none at present are overcrowded. The cemetery at Compton Chamberlain was this year enlarged, and the piece of ground added was inspected by me at the request of the Home Office, and was found to be well adapted for its purpose.

Twenty-seven workshops and bakehouses were inspected, and three were ordered to be limewashed. Seventy-three dairies and cowsheds were inspected, and the bye-laws with regard to them are observed.

Fifty-seven cases of infectious disease were notified during the year; 26 of these occurred in the Bishopstone sub-district, 23 in the Wilton sub-district, and 8 in the Workhouse. Of these 17 were cases of diphtheria, 15 of erysipelas, and 25 of scarlet fever. In each case appropriate printed directions and precautions were given, and disinfectants were supplied. Eleven houses were disinfected and cleansed by the Inspector of Nuisances. The cases of diphtheria occurred in the parishes of Barford, Bemerton, Bower Chalke, Burcombe, Fovant, and South Newton. Scarlet fever occurred in Barford, Bower Chalke, South Newton, and Stapleford. Erysipelas was notified from Barford, Burcombe, Dinton, Fovant, South Newton, Stapleford, and Wylke. In the early months of the year influenza was prevalent over the whole district, and twenty deaths were attributed to influenza and broncho-pneumonia: of these one occurred in Bemerton, one in Berwick St. James, one in Broad Chalke, one in Ebbesbourne Wake, one in Fifield, two in Fisherton Delamere, one in Fovant, one in South Newton, two in Steeple

Langford, four in Wylve, and five in Wishford. Measles has also been widely epidemic, and it was necessary to close the Bishopstone School, 834 attendances being lost through this cause. Eight cases of erysipelas have occurred in the Workhouse. The sanitary arrangements in the male and female sick wards have not been very satisfactory of late, and it is desirable that the water closets should be better isolated from the wards, and better flushed. The House Committee have the matter under consideration at the present time.

No case of enteric fever occurred during the year.

Among the deaths registered, 13 were from phthisis : One was from diphtheria (at Fovant), but there were no deaths from any other zymotic disease than those which I have mentioned above.

The sanitary staff remains unchanged, and the whole district has been inspected.

The number of deaths from all causes was 132, giving a death-rate for the year of 15·4 per 1,000. The average death-rate during the last ten years was 13·6, as against 17·6 in all England. The infantile mortality was at the rate of 101 per 1000 births, as against 161 in all England. The death-rate from zymotic disease (other than influenza and pneumonia) was 0·02 per 1,000 ; the death-rate from influenza and pneumonia was 2·3 per 1,000.

The births registered were 188, of which 101 were male, and 87 female, giving a birth-rate of 21·8 per 1,000.

I append the usual tables, and a schedule of the supervision exercised. 157 notices to abate nuisances were served, and 128 of these have already been complied with.

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sci., Durham.

TABLE I.—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.
For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*.
1890	8418	205	24·3	18	87	109	12·9
1891	7774	236	23·8	21	88	158	15·9
1892	7852	200	20·2	12	60	128	14·9
1893	7924	193	24·3	21	108	113	14·2
1894	8004	194	24·2	19	97	119	14·8
1895	8079	210	26·0	8	38	125	15·4
1896	8164	193	24·9	11	57	91	11·1
1897	8266	189	22·8	18	95	104	12·5
1898	8351	183	21·9	22	120	96	11·4
1899	8438	180	21·3	15	83	111	13·1
Averages for years 1890 —1899		198	23·3	16·5	83	115	13·6
1900	8507	188	21·8	19	101	132	15·4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water)

} 56,868

Total population at all ages, 7,774
Number of inhabited houses, 1,627
Average number of persons per house, 5·2

} At
Census
of 1891.

TABLE II.—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.			WILTON RURAL.			
YEAR.			Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
			a.	b.	c.	d.
1890	...	...	8418	205	109	18
1891	...	...	7774	236	158	21
1892	...	...	7852	200	128	12
1893	...	...	7924	193	113	21
1894	...	...	8004	194	119	19
1895	...	...	8079	210	125	8
1896	..	...	8164	193	91	11
1897	...	...	8266	189	104	18
1898	...	...	8351	183	96	22
1899	...	...	8438	180	111	15
Averages of Years { 1890 to 1899. }				198	115	16
1900	...	...	8507	188	132	19

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1900 in the Wilton Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.			CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		
			At all Ages.	At Ages.	Wilton.	Bishopstone.	Workhouse.
Diphtheria	...	...	17	(Ages not notified.)	4	12	1
Erysipelas	...	...	15		2	6	7
Scarlet fever	..	...	25		17	8	0
Totals	...	...	57		23	26	8

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1900, in the Wilton Rural District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Bishop- stone.	Wilton.	Work- house.
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Croup ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Epidemic influenza ...	16	1	...	...	1	7	7	4	10	2
Diarrhœa ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Phthisis ...	13	...	...	1	1	10	1	8	5	...
Other tubercular diseases...	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	2	1
Bronchitis ...	10	2	2	...	...	3	3	7	3	...
Pneumonia ...	6	1	...	...	1	2	2	1	5	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Premature birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Heart diseases ...	16	...	...	...	1	6	9	8	7	1
Accidents ...	4	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	2	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
All other causes ...	45	7	1	...	1	10	26	28	13	4
All causes... ..	132	19	4	3	7	48	51	67	56	9

*Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Wilton Rural District
during the year ending 31st December, 1900.*

Prevention of Infectious Disease under Direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases inquired into ...	41
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed ...	11
No. of Patients removed to Hospital ...	Nil.
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed ...	Nil.
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported ...	Nil.

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable) ...	Nil.
No. made fit for habitation ...	11
No. closed as unfit for habitation ...	6
No. Cleansed and Limewashed ...	54

Overcrowding.

No. of Cases Abated ...	4
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House Drains.

No. Laid or Re-laid... ..	2
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated... ..	8
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified... ..	Nil.
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks and Urinals rectified	Nil.
No. of Dumbwells rectified	Nil.

Water Closets.

No. of Additional W.C.'s provided ...	Nil.
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns	1

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	Nil.
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop Closets	Nil.
No. converted to Pail Closets	Nil.
No. Repaired	3

Scavenging.

Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	Nil.
Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	17
Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed... ..	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed	Nil.
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided... ..	Nil.

Smoke Nuisances.

No. Under Observation	Nil.
No. Abated	Nil.

Offensive Trades.

No. Under Observation	Nil.
No. Improperly Conducted	Nil.

Water Supply.

No. of Wells Sunk	Nil.
No. of Wells cleansed and repaired	6
No. of Wells closed as polluted	Nil.
No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year)	182
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	30

Slaughter-houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	Nil.
No. Regularly inspected	2
No. Cleaned and Repaired	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons Engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision	73
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with	Nil.
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector	Nil.

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	27
No. Certified for Lime-Washing by Inspector	3
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	Nil.
No. employing "Young Persons," &c., reported to Medical Officer of Health	Nil.

Lodging Houses.

No. on Register	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected	Nil.
No. Cleansed and Repaired	Nil.

Food.

No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption	Nil.
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Animals so Kept as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	Nil.
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	Nil.
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Legal Proceedings.

No. Taken... ..	Nil.
No. of Convictions Obtained... ..	Nil.
No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed... ..	Nil.

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices Served	157
No. of Notices Complied With	128
No. of Notices Outstanding	29

(Signed) JOHN GOULDEN.